

REMARKS

I. General Remarks

Claims 12-14 have been cancelled herein. Claims 15-22 remain pending in the instant application. Claims 15 and 22 have been amended to address the Examiner's objections thereto.

The Examiner is thanked for the telephone interview on October 11, 2006 with Applicant's Attorney. In light of the interview, the clarifying amendments and the remarks set forth below, the Examiner is respectfully requested to re-consider the outstanding rejections and withdraw such rejections.

II. Drawing Objection

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for not showing the feature of the plurality of pinholes of the perforated veneer as in claim 22. Accordingly, Figure 4 has been amended to conform the figure to the text of the application so as to illustrate this feature (see enclosed amended drawing sheet). Applicant points to the following passages of the originally-filed specification as providing support for conforming the figure to the text of the originally-filed specification:

"Typically the veneer is perforated with small pin holes to permit steam to pass through during compression." Originally-filed Specification, lines 9-10 at 4.

"Typically the veneer is perforated with small pin holes to permit steam to pass through during compression." Originally-filed Specification, lines 6-7 at 8.

"The holes in the paper allow the steam to pass and activate the glue on the paper." Originally-filed Specification, lines 17-18 at 8.

As Figure 4 has been amended merely to conform the figure to the text of the originally-filed specification, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been submitted by this amendment. As such, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection as to the drawings.

III. Remarks Regarding Amendments to the Specification

The specification has been amended to explicitly reference the pinholes shown in amended Figure 4. As discussed above in Section II, Figure 4 has been amended to show the feature of the plurality of pinholes to conform the drawings to the text of the originally-filed application. Thus, a

sentence has been added to the text of the specification to clarify the presence of this pinhole feature in Figure 4. As this pinhole feature has already been described in detail in the text, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added by this clarifying amendment.

IV. Remarks Regarding Claim Objection

Claim 22 has been amended to address the Examiner's objections.

V. Remarks Regarding 35 U.S.C. Rejections

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, paragraph 2. More specifically, the Examiner has objected to claim 15 for unclear antecedent basis as to "veneer." Accordingly, claim 15 has been amended to update the antecedent basis for "veneer."

VI. Remarks Regarding Obviousness Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 15-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,709,016 issued to Gulick et al. (hereinafter "Gulick") in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,031,275 issued to McLaurin et al. (hereinafter "McLaurin") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,439,749 issued to Klasell et al. (hereinafter "Klasell"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection in light of the amendments and the foregoing comments.

In the forgoing combination of references, the Examiner relies on Gulick for teaching the elements of a casket; the Examiner relies on McLaurin for teaching a veneer with pinholes; and the Examiner relies on Klasell for teaching a finish coat.

The substance of the October 11, 2006 telephone conversation was to discuss the teaching of McLaurin. Contrary to the Examiner's previous interpretation of McLaurin, the Applicant submits that McLaurin teaches a strip of paper tape 3 with pinholes 7 provided in the tape. The focus of McLaurin is "gummed tape used in connection with veneering operations." Col. 1, Line 2. The tape that is the focus of McLaurin is used to **temporarily** secure abutting edges of adjacent sections of veneer 4. Col. 2, line 4. This tape is later removed, either by peeling it off or by sanding. Col. 1, line 14; Col. 2, lines 24-32. As to the pinholes 7 in the paper tape 3 (see Fig. 2), McLaurin teaches that the holes are provided to facilitate penetration of glue through the paper tape 3. Col. 3, line 8.

Thus, McLaurin does not teach a veneer with pinholes as previously asserted by the Examiner, but rather teaches a temporary, removable tape 3 (as opposed to veneer 4) with pinholes

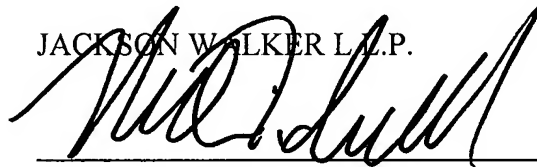
7. (Applicant notes that none of the actual veneer sections 4 of McLaurin show pinholes 7.) The tape structure of McLaurin cannot be equated to the veneer with pinholes as set forth in applicant's claim. For this reason, McLaurin should be withdrawn as a reference. Given that the remaining references do not teach or suggest this limitation of applicant's claim 22, the claim should be passed to allowance.

A check in the amount of \$60.00 is enclosed herewith for a one month extension of time. Authorization is hereby given to charge Deposit Account No. 10-0096 for any deficiency of fees related to this response or the application.

If the Examiner has any other matters which pertain to this Application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve these matters by Examiner's Amendment where possible. A prompt examination and allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

JACKSON WALKER L.L.P.



Mark A. Tidwell
Reg. No. 37,456
112 E. Pecan Street, Suite 2100
San Antonio, Texas 78205-1521
Phone: (713) 752-4517
Fax: (713) 752-4135
Attorneys for Applicant

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the date shown below with the United States Postal Service, with sufficient postage as First Class Mail (37 CFR 1.8(a)), in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450.

Date: October 11, 2006


Renee Treider